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**JOINT FAO/ECE/ILO COMMITTEE ON FOREST TECHNOLOGY, MANAGEMENT AND TRAINING**

Seminar on  
**AFFORESTATION IN THE CONTEXT OF SUSTAINABLE FOREST MANAGEMENT**

in conjunction with the 24<sup>th</sup> session of the Joint FAO/ECE/ILO Committee on  
Forest Technology, Management and Training

Ennis, Co. Clare, Ireland, 15-19 September 2002

**Afforestation in Ukraine: Towards a Nature-Orientated Approach**

Basic paper by Mr. Sergiy Zibtsev

## **Summary**

Since the 1950s, forest management in Ukraine has been focused mainly on the creation of artificial forests. Annual planted reached 100-200,000 hectares per year during the period 1949-64; 55-100,000 ha/yr during the period 1965-90; and 35-40,000 ha/yr from the year 1991. As a result, the total forest area has increased by 2.3 million ha, and the total timber volume has doubled. Consequently, significant human, technical, and organisational experience has been gained in the area of artificial afforestation. This large-scale afforestation was based on the results of numerous scientific researches and field experiments in the four main climatic zones of Ukraine. An important element of successful afforestation was the system-based approach, which has been realised throughout all stages of the process: tree selection, seed-grow and nursery networks, protection systems for forest plantations, zone-based technologies for site preparation, planting and weeding, and early tending. Simultaneously, codes of best afforestation practice and guidelines on the types of forest plantation for forest, forest-and-steppe, steppe and mountain zones, and methods of their creation, have all been published.

In the context of the transition of Ukraine to a market economy and the adoption of international efforts of SFM development, the place of artificial reforestation in forestry is changing. It should prevail in the regions with unfavourable climate conditions, intensive air pollution and in recreational areas (eastern part of Lisostep (forest-steppe), steppe area), while natural regeneration-based shelterwood silviculture systems are essential in mountainous regions (in spruce and beech-fir-spruce forests of Carpathians) and in that part of the Polissya region.

One of the main concerns in the field of afforestation is increasing the stability of planted forests, using environmentally sound forest practices and technologies that create 'close-to-nature' conditions.

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